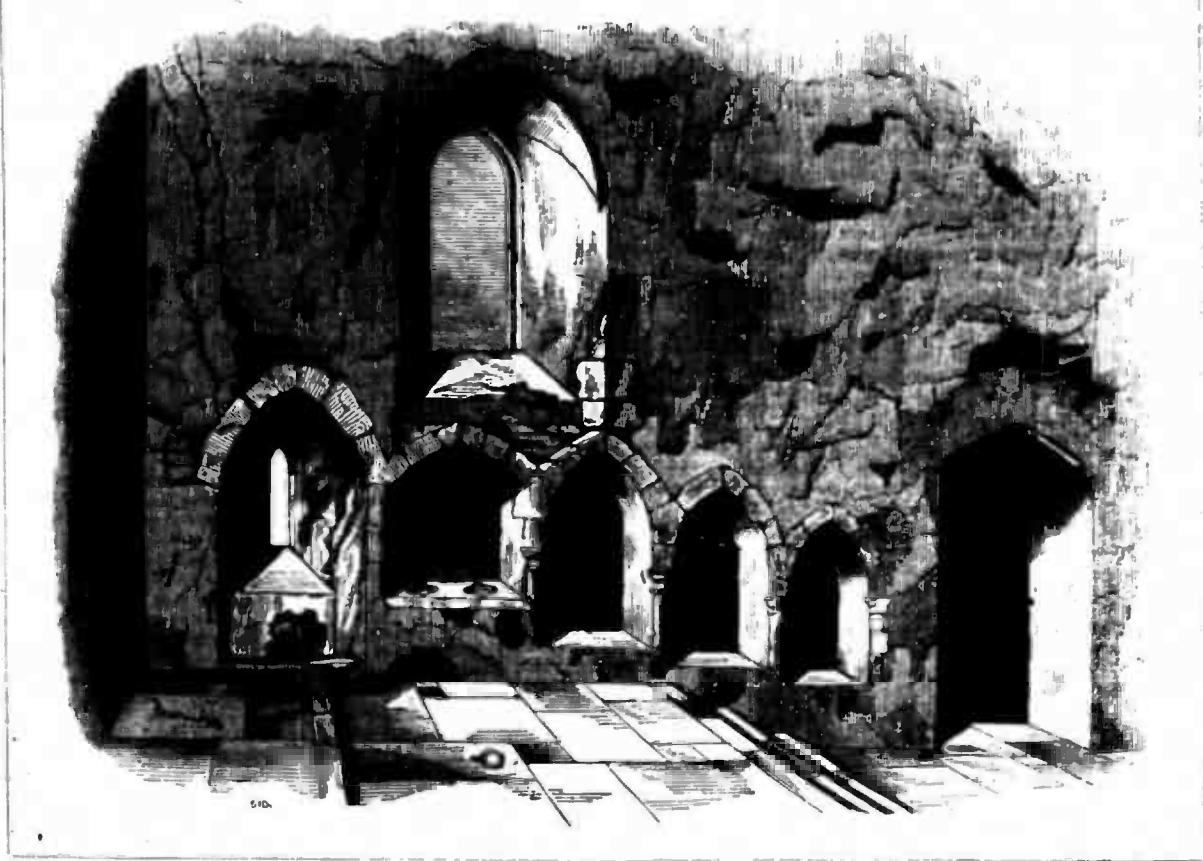


## SOUTH WALL OF CHANCEL, STOWE BARDOLPH CHURCH.



increase and progress of the crop; he knows its meetings and its value; he can tell at a glance the quantity and contents of any tree; and can determine which is to be fallen, both for profit in the product and benefit to the reserved timber. How is it in royal property? The official is an officer of state, mayhap a member of the senate; if he is not above the business he is not equal to it; the chief part of the duty is to receive a heavy stipend (much too large for an operative), and the supervision is left to local agents.

Thus it is that in national property malversation is easy, the delegated duty is performed without check, and no principal can be expected to undertake more than the audit and acceptance of accounts, *habilement raisonnés*.

In territorial concerns of such magnitude, riding surveyors, not addicted to any particular range, might be a wholesome restraint; and even in the event of the sale of all useless wastes, and the retention of only timber producing soils, such officers (and they are employed in the postal departments) at a moderate salary, with travelling allowances, might be a salutary guard on spoliations and robbery such as have been brought to light.

No further evidence is required to prove the necessity of some precaution than the report of Mr. G. W. Fletcher, timber merchant, of Millbrook, Southampton, which was presented to Lord Duncan, and to which the prosecution of the Reader was altogether owing:—"Such was the mismanagement in the Forests, and so deeply were the royal servants implicated in systematic plunder and corruption of every kind!—so multifarious were the parties concerned in it, that a public fund was collected to defend prisoners!! and that for this reason it was next to impossible to find a jury to convict!!!"—See Times, Nov. 29.

There is no argument for a total change and disafforestation of royal demesnes if this be not one; yet this is only a fragment of what has come to light,—for it appears that in Whichwood countless thousands have been lost to the public, the timber wasted, and the delinquent has been suffered to escape.

Reserving for another occasion some proofs of facts in aggravation of gross mismanagement,

as also some remarks as to the inexhaustible stores of durable or nearly imperishable timber which can be supplied by the colonies of Australasia, together with the facility of carrying home those products in suitable scantling, or of even building ships in our colonies of a vastly superior material, I shall now conclude with the remark that the redundant population might be placed in a position of happiness for themselves, and advantage for the parent state, by sending them to wide fields of industry, and by taking, in return, the blue and tarant gum tree, the mahogany, and other timbers, the clearance whereof would give them a location, and confer on Britain an *enceinte fortifiée*.

QUONDAM.

## PECULIAR FEATURE IN STOWE BARDOLPH CHURCH.

ANNEXED is a view taken in September last, of the south wall of the chancel of Stowe Bardolph Church. With the exception of the doorway, all the arches were bricked up and entirely concealed by a thin deal partition; the steps and floor are of course not in their original position, they will be altered when the restoration is complete. The whole of this wall was in such a ruinous condition that it was obliged to be taken down, but it has been rebuilt precisely as it formerly was.

The window or opening eastward of the piscina is worthy of notice. I believe its position to be unique, at any rate I have never met with one so situated before out of nearly 3,000 churches that I have inspected: it has no appearance of ever having been glazed, nor are there any traces of hooks for the hinges, as are generally found when such openings have been closed with shutters. The clear dimensions of the opening are 2 feet 1½ inch by 4½ inches. The walls of this church were almost entirely covered with paintings, among which were two very large ones of St. Christopher, reaching from the floor to the roof; the lower portions of these had been destroyed by an enormous gallery, which extended over more than half the length of the church; there were other paintings re-

presenting the martyrdom of St. Edmund the crucifixion; two figures, the one of the blessed Virgin, and the other, holding a book, probably intended for St. Ann, over the centre of the chancel, and two angels holding a shield, with the emblems of the passion, with the figure of our Saviour above: in other parts the walls were diapered with the sacred monogram. These paintings were mostly very rudely executed, and in so bad a state as to preclude the possibility of their being restored; but before they were quite lost, I took careful drawings of the most interesting.

The church consists of chancel, with mortuary chapel on the north, nave, and west tower.

I should be very glad to hear from some of your numerous contributors or readers, whether an aperture, similar to the one referred to in the accompanying sketch, is to be met with in any other church in a similar position.

The restorations now going on comprise the rebuilding the south walls of the nave and chancel; new windows throughout the church; new oak roofs over nave and chancel, the former open to the ridge, the latter panelled; new oak chancel screen and stalls; new paving throughout; new north porch, and new doors to the nave and chancel. All the windows will be filled with stained glass. New altar, font and pulpit. The seating to the nave will be partly new; the remainder being the old seats (date, 1625).

RAPHAEL BRANDON.

**IRISH SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.**—The Government School at Belfast was to be opened on Thursday in last week. Lord Dufferin, the president, announced by letter his intention to offer a prize of 50l. for the most approved design, for a damask table cloth. Copies of the design when approved of, his lordship suggested should be distributed to the most celebrated damask manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Belfast, with the view of being manufactured in linen, to be submitted to the inspection of competent judges, and the piece most approved of to be sent to the exhibition of nations in 1851, as a specimen of the staple manufacture of the north of Ireland.